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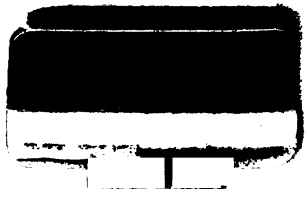

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1885

THE MEMORIAL HISTORY

OF THE

Felch Family

IN

AMERICA AND WALES.

The Earliest and Latest Records,—1641—1881.

By W. Farrand Felch, Columbus, Ohio.

Press of J. F. Earhart & Co., Columbus, Ohio.
1881.

Nos 1–4 Rec'd

The Travelers
Insurance Company,

Hartford, Conn. 62/17 1885

D. T. Dunnie Esq
Madison Wis

My Dear Sir:

Mr. F. B. Gay kindly wrote you regarding my "Memorial Hist of the Felch Family" some time since, and also read me yr reply. Accordingly I mail you a set of the numbers, for which I shall have to charge $1.00, my regular subscription price, — a slight advance above cost. When the work is completed I shall be glad to let you have the remaining parts

Respy
W F Felch
c/o Travelers Ins. Co
Hartford Conn

To you the hopeful wise invoking turn,
To legislate for ages yet unborn;
On PARENT-DUTY must suspended be,
The fated page of dark futurity.

WALTON FELCH.

CHAPTER XIX. THE ROYALSTON BRANCH.

"Every family is a history in itself, and even a poem, to those who know how to read its pages." LAMARTINE.

"The instinct
Which makes the honored memory of the dead
A trust with all the living."

Of this branch, Miss Rosetta Felch wrote the author:

"Mary and Asahel are the only two of my half brothers and sisters that I ever had any acquaintance with. Asahel was a Methodist minister and also a farmer,— a very industrious man, of good judgement, possessing a spice of humor, mingled with sound sense. He was much respected in the place where he lived.

Mary married, at the age of eighteen, Edmund Towne, a widower with two children and a father and mother to support — a great undertaking for one so young as she was; she passed through many trials, but had a lively cheerful disposition, and possessed a great degree of fortitude, energy, and perseverance. She was left a widow and remained so many years, then married Lyman Child; they moved to Vershire Vt., and she was again left a widow; she died in Vershire. She had one son, Almon Spencer Towne; he died in California leaving a widow and one daughter in Strafford Vt.; the widow married Joshua Lane and lived in Berlin Vt.

I never saw my half-brother, Nathan Junior; have heard it said he was a good preacher. My father once related to me an anecdote of him which I consider somewhat illustrative of his character. He was on his way to a place, some ten miles distant, where he was to meet a man on important business, at a certain hour. Nathan, on the way, met a brother minister who asked him to stop and talk; he replied that he had no time to spare, and no more than time to reach his destination at the appointed hour: but the man was so determined to talk that he finally stepped before Nathan's horse and took it by the bit. Nathan turned the butt of his whip, knocked the man down and rode on without once looking back. The man entered complaint but could not make out a case.

I never saw Cheever. My father told me he had a superior education, and understood eight different languages. I saw Walton at my father's when I was about four years old, and never saw him again. He boarded with Absina two weeks when she lived in Woodstock, Vt.; was then lecturing on phrenology and mesmerism.

Concerning her own brother, she writes: —

"My brother Pliny died and was buried in Bangor N. Y. He visited us two years before his death. He told me he should come again in two years prepared to take me back with him, and give me an education. He was an earnest Christian, respected by all who knew him, and his death was much lamented. Pliny went to live with Mr. Paine in Bethel

Vt., when he was about thirteen years old. Mr. Paine removed to Bangor N. Y., and he went with him; that was his home while he lived. The Paine family were much attached to him. He was a member of the Congregational church, and would have been a minister had he lived. His last sickness came on him when he was in Oberlin (Ohio) College. He died in one month after reaching home in Bangor."

Nathan Jr. had ten children; Mary, a son; Asahel, two sons and two daughters; Cheever, six daughters; Walton, three sons and one daughter; Betsey, two sons; Mrs. Fargo, seven children.

Mr. Hiram E. Felch of Boston, writes concerning his father, Walton Felch:—

"In early life, father was superintendent of some of the first cotton mills in this country; in fact, I have heard him say he was the master machinist who started the first one at Slatersville, in Rhode Island. He gave much of his time to study, and the good of humanity. I send you one of his earliest poetical efforts, although I have heard him say he delivered a Fourth of July oration at the age of eighteen. In later life he published a new system of Grammar, also works on Pnrenology, Magnetism, Astronomy, etc. The last fifteen years of his life he wrote many poems of which I have a manuscript volume of some 200 or more pages; some of the poems have been published and highly recommended by critics."

The author has in his possession a paper-covered work bearing the label "W. Felch P. M., Coldbrook, Mass." The title is "The Manufacturer's Pocket-Piece; or the Cotton-Mill Moralized. A Poem, with illustrative notes. By Walton Felch. Published For Samuel Allen, and sold by him and the Author, Medway — Price 25 cts. single — 2D. per doz.— and 12 D. per hundred. 1816. Wm. B. Allen & Co. Printers, Newburyqort." With it is bound a shorter poem entitled "The Supplement to a Lecture on the Stars. Being a recapitulation in verse of sone instructions which are important and difficult to be remembered. Illustrated by Notes and Diagrams. By Walton Felch. Price 25 cents. From the Office of P. E. B. Botham, Southbridge. Stephen Carr, Printer 1828." The whole occupies 40 pages.

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